



ST. MARY PARISH

August 2006

COMPLETION REPORT

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT A GLANCE

17	<i>Drinking Water Plant Assessments</i>
50	<i>Wastewater Facility Assessments</i>
33	<i>School Lab Assessments</i>

Since September 2005, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) have worked together to address environmental hazards from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to help St. Mary Parish recover.

One of EPA and LDEQ's first priorities was to ensure residents returning to all the cities affected by the hurricanes had safe drinking water. Throughout St.

Mary's Parish, 17 assessments were conducted at drinking water facilities. Similarly, 50 wastewater treatment plants were assessed for damage.

Because of concerns that damaged chemicals in school biology and chemistry laboratories could cause a health hazard, EPA



and LDEQ conducted assessments at schools in southern Louisiana. Some chemical containers were found to be damaged by the hurricanes, by flood waters and/or from heat exposure. EPA and LDEQ, in coordination with the Louisiana State Police and local fire departments, removed dangerous chemicals from schools in southern Louisiana. Thirty-three schools in St. Mary Parish were assessed; none of them required chemical removal.

Above: EPA inspecting a tank for hurricane damage.

Left: EPA assessing a school for damaged chemicals from the labs.